Ready to learn: Improving children's development and readiness for school through data and knowledge mobilization

Durham Region — Children's Services Division · OntarioTech UNIVERSITY · CITYSTUDIO DURHAM
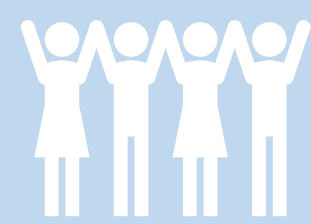
72 Students

5 EDI Developmental Domains

17 Creative products developed

Winter semester 2024

The **Early Development Instrument (EDI)** is a tool used in Durham Region to stay informed about children's development and helps determine their readiness for school. It is a questionnaire completed by teachers for all senior kindergarten children.

The EDI has been completed six times in Durham Region:

Cycle 1 2006 → Cycle 2 2009 → Cycle 3 2012 → Cycle 4 2015 → Cycle 5 2018 → Cycle 6 2023

How might we address the gap between data and on-the-ground interventions to improve developmental outcomes for children?

Ontario Tech University's students in the 'Holistic Learning in Early Childhood Education' course developed **evidence-based products** for our early learning and child care community. Some examples included:

The EDI measures children's ability to meet age-appropriate developmental expectations across the following five development domains:

- **Physical Health and Well-Being**
- **Social Competence**
- **Emotional Maturity**
- **Language and Cognitive Development**
- **Communication Skills and General Knowledge**

Communication Skills and General Knowledge
Community Resources and Activities

Social Competence Activity Cards

Emotional Maturity Kit and the At Home Grounding Center

CityStudio Winter 2024: Student Experience

4.3 out of 5
Average rating of their CityStudio experience

56 students completed the survey

91%
Agreed or strongly agreed that the experience will help them in future academic/work endeavours.

89%
Agreed or strongly agreed that the experience taught them new skills.

88%
Agreed or strongly agreed that they enjoyed working collaboratively with others

93%
Agreed or strongly agreed that the learning experience was valuable.

98%
Believed their final project/product will help children and their parents/families in Durham Region.

91%
Agreed or strongly agreed that they enjoyed working with real-world data.

"I enjoyed having the challenge of professionally launching a "real life problem" and thinking of a way to support families while taking into consideration considerable factors like for example, finances."

"The project felt more meaningful because we were using real-world data relevant to us and the schools we work in. I liked that we were creating something for a purpose more than just a mark, as there is a chance it could be used. I had no knowledge of the EDI prior to this project, and I think it was a great way to learn and connect it back to my experiences working with children."

"I liked the fact that we given the opportunity to create a prototype for a real life issue. That we got to be creative and able to choose something that we were passionate about..."

"I liked working with real data to create something to help real families."